



STATE SUPERINTENDENT JACK O'CONNELL

California Department of Education

Increasing The Gains

2004 Priorities

Improving High Schools

- Raise expectations for high school student achievement
- Help students meet higher expectations by developing world-class teachers and school leaders
- Improve high school instructional materials to align with California's standards
- Create a community of support for high –achieving high schools
- Work with higher education institutions and middle schools to smooth transitions to and from high school

"We can no longer limit the adult opportunities for our students because of our failure to provide them both challenges and support in high school. There is an urgent need to improve, regardless of limitations placed upon us by the budget." – Jack O'Connell

Reducing the Burden on Districts and Schools

- Eliminate duplicative, overlapping data requests of school districts and schools
- Call for a legislative moratorium on unnecessary data requests
- Complete development of individual student identifier
- Work harder to complete a modern statewide education data "super-highway" for school and student achievement data (CSIS)
- Streamline and reduce the burden of testing where it makes sense to do so.
- Simplify reporting of test results and better explain standards to help parents work with their children on areas needing improvement

"This will significantly reduce the reporting burden on schools and districts, and free up local staff to spend more time with students in the classroom." – Jack O'Connell

Staying the Course to Increase Achievement Gains

- Focus strongly on programs aimed at increasing student achievement
- Support standards aligned professional development for teachers and principals
- Resist any roll-back of high standards, accountability

"We owe it to our children to stay the course with the successful reforms we've made – to continue raising student achievement, particularly at our lowest-performing schools. And above all, to focus on closing the achievement gap." – Jack O'Connell

